(b) and (c) The main recommendations of the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority for the National Capital Region include phasing out of leaded petrol, introduction of petrol with 1% benzene maximum, introduction of fuel (petrol as well as diesel) with 0.05% sulphur content maximum, sale of only pre-mixed 2-T Oil in petrol stations, ban on plying of buses more than eight years old except on clean fuels, conversion of city bus fleet to single fuel mode on Compressed Natural gas (CNG), increase of CNG supply outlets, construction of common effluent treatment plants. The Authority exercised its powers under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 in monitoring and implementing its recommendations for protecting and improving the quality of the environment. The Government have taken steps to implement the recommendations of the Authority.

Ban on Sale of Crackers

1378. SHRI KRJPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to impose a ban on the sale of crackers, to check the ill effects of fireworks on human health and environment in the country every year;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Government have not imposed any ban on the sale and manufacture of fire-crackers. However, the noise levels of firecrackers shall not exceed the standards notified vide G.S.R. 682(E), dated October 5, 1999 and the Department of Explosives has been asked to monitor the compliance.

Menace of leopards in Uttaranchal and H.P.

1379. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that leopards have created menace in Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh by killing many people and also getting themselves killed due to lack of jungles;

(b) if so, the number of people killed by leopards and the leopards killed during the last two years; and